



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 27, 2007
Week Ending: August 26, 2007
CWP WA-CW3507

Grain Harvest Nearly Complete; Farmers Start Winter Wheat Planting; Sweet Corn Harvest Underway

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. Rains throughout eastern Washington grain growing counties slowed the combining, but the harvest was nearly finished. The showers briefly delayed the winter wheat seeding, but the moisture was welcome. In some counties only lentils, garbanzo beans and some small grains remained. Grant County reported that onion and carrot seed planting continued. Dry peas and potato harvest were still underway. The third cutting of alfalfa was winding down, and the fourth cutting began. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble and Shasta fir and reported aphids in Noble fir plantations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the lower Yakima Valley, rain delayed tree fruit harvest early in the week, but Gala apple harvest was in full swing. Also being harvested were Bartlett pears, peaches, and nectarines. Cool evenings were leading to good color development in Red Delicious and other apple varieties. Concord juice grapes were beginning to show good color development. Sweet corn harvest continued in Grant County. Skagit County reported that the cabbage seed harvest was hurt due to rainy weather, and area bulb farmers were planting. Some blueberries were still being harvested.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 24% poor, 29% fair and 34% good. Pasture continued to be in good shape on the west side of the Cascades with unprecedented growth due to the cool, rainy weather, but on the east side conditions were poor. Stevens County reported that some ranchers had begun moving cattle off summer pasture, selling calves early and culling old or open cows due to lack of feed. Calves were being weaned. Hay supplies continued to be tight.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.9
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	39	43	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	25	35	38	2
Subsoil	32	35	33	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	36	48	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	5	27	67	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	88	76	85	84
Winter Wheat Planted	4	NA	NA	2
Winter Wheat Harvested	97	90	93	92
Barley Harvested	85	73	78	82
Potatoes Harvested	41	36	47	41
Corn Silked	90	88	100	100
Corn Dough	47	42	45	58
Corn Dented	33	14	34	41
Corn Mature	8	3	14	14
Corn Silage Harvested	17	5	20	13
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	17	14	24	22
Dry Peas Harvested	94	84	98	90
Alfalfa Hay, 2 nd Cutting	99	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay, 3 rd Cutting	59	51	74	79

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	14	84	0
Corn	0	0	15	70	15
Dry Edible Beans	0	4	26	58	12

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Ornamental plant producers, garden center owners, and landscapers from all over the Pacific Northwest took in the Far West Nursery show last week.

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperature has been a little cooler, with the highs in the 60s and the lows in the 50s. There were no unusual conditions to report.

Grays Harbor: The rural landscape continued to turn green due to the unseasonable rainfall which occurred throughout the month. Pastures were growing rapidly. The risk of fire danger in forestland was low due to the recent rains. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific yields and excellent demand. Forage producers expressed disappointment in weather which was conducive to hay harvest. The sweet corn crop looked good despite a lack of heat units.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: August will go down as one of the cooler Augusts on record. Sporadic showers frustrated late season forage growers as they tried to get their crops dried between showers. Corn growers were hoping for sunshine to bring their crops to maturity.

Mason: More rain during the week kept irrigation at a minimum. Sweet corn and cucumbers were in abundance, while tomatoes were having an average season in terms of productivity. Pastures looked fantastic, and animals were grazing fields that were typically dormant by this time of the summer. Pastured poultry producers had to mow to keep grass low enough for the birds to graze. Producers who seeded fall and winter vegetable crops were seeing good germination and transplanting. Vegetable producers were looking forward to the coming week's forecasted warmer temperatures to push warm season crops before fall sets in.

Mason (2nd Report): About 0.2 inches of rain was received during the week. The weather has been pleasant. It has been a nearly perfect summer for pasture growth.

Pierce/S. King: There have been no reports of crop damage due to a weather event during the past week. For the most part, crops were looking good in the South Puget Sound area. The rain has been very helpful.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 68 degrees. There was 0.50 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU Extension Center in Mount Vernon. Locally you can purchase blueberries, blackberries, cucumbers, corn, potatoes and much

more. Some cabbage seed farmers were able to harvest their fields on Friday. Yields will be less than average this year due to rainy weather that shattered the seed pods and made the seeds sprout before they could be harvested. The 2008 cabbage seed crop was being planted. The rain should help get the plants up and going. Spinach seed farmers complained about the rain since the majority of this year's crop was on the ground. The rain will set back harvesting and reduce yields. Area bulb farmers were planting, and some daffodils were already in the ground. Potato harvest began with yields expected to be down this year. Cucumbers were mostly being harvested by hand, which makes them more valuable. Local corn was marketed around the county.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Warm days and cool nights with some precipitation characterized the past week's weather. There were no reports of negative effects on crops or harvesting. Planting of fall seeded crops progressed normally.

Snohomish/N. King: Heavy showers throughout the week were received in some parts of the county. The showers were great for pastures but not so good for some of the ripening crops. Sweet corn harvest was underway, and blueberries were still being harvested. Home gardeners were picking plums, peaches, and early apples plus lots of summer vegetables. Wild blackberry harvest was underway.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The temperature got up to the 70s during the week and the lows were in the 50s. Some farmers were planting cabbage and harvesting wheat.

Thurston: Unseasonably cool temperatures and rain showers continued to delay the harvest of cereal grains. Livestock producers were pleased that the month's rainfall resulted in unprecedented forage growth, but on the other hand also frustrated that the weather has not been conducive to making conventional hay. This resulted in an increase in the production of haylage. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble and Shasta fir, and also reported aphids in Noble fir plantations. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating fields for fall planting. The blueberry harvest was nearing completion with growers very pleased with this year's crop yields.

Whatcom: Temperatures averaged 68 degrees, with some much needed rain received over the weekend. Potato harvest began with a reportedly good yield. Blueberry harvest continued.

Central

Benton: Winter wheat seeding should begin after Labor Day. Seeding moisture was adequate.

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 5 percent complete.

Grant (2nd Report): Both irrigated and dryland wheat harvest was complete. Onion and carrot seed planting continued. Sweet corn and dry pea harvest continued, and chipping potato harvest was underway. The third cutting of alfalfa was winding down, and silage corn harvest will begin soon.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was being swathed, sweet corn harvest was underway, and sudan grass was being cut. Rangelands were dry and done growing for the year. Beef producers began to wean calves.

Klickitat: Severe grasshopper damage was reported in parts of the county for the third summer in a row. Pasture, range and hay

fields were affected. Three significant rain showers were received in the past ten days, which was unusual for this time of year.

Yakima: Rain delayed tree fruit harvest early in the week, but then the Gala apple harvest was in full swing. Bartlett pears, peaches, and nectarines were also being harvested. Cool evenings were leading to good color development in Red Delicious apples and other apple varieties. Concord juice grapes were beginning to show good color development.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from seven degrees below normal to five degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Seeding for winter wheat progressed throughout the county under sunny skies after a brief unsettled period early in the week.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest progressed normally with many producers finishing up. Rain showers early in the week stopped harvest briefly, but did little to help moisture conditions for next year's seeding. Rangeland was still in poor condition in many areas.

Garfield: Harvest was nearly over except in the higher elevation areas. The yields were varied. Rain received over the weekend stopped harvest operations. The first reports of new invasive insect pests in Washington were received; barley mealy bug in south Garfield County and wheat head armyworm near Davenport.

Lincoln: Harvesting began again after earlier rain delayed it. Although more precipitation was needed, producers were seeding winter wheat.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 80 degrees and the low was 38 degrees, with 0.25 inches of precipitation. Range and pastures were extremely dry. The small amount of rain received was quickly dissipated with the wind and heat. Livestock were slowly fattening on a combination of pasture, hay and grain. Hay was in very short supply.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of cooler weather followed the rain. Lots of wind during the week helped the dry crops so combines could get back in the fields. Most of the grain crops have been harvested. Lentils and some small grains remained to be harvested. A small amount of fieldwork was being done. Pasture conditions remained tight, and hay supplies were even tighter.

Stevens: The weather became more fall-like this past week, with lower high temperatures and cooler evenings and mornings. Area creeks were very low. Some ranchers moved cattle off of summer pastures, sold calves early, and culled old or open cows because of lack of feed. Hay supplies were very tight.

Walla Walla: Rain during the first part of the week was welcomed. Hay will be in very short supply and expensive this year. Mountain range grasses were holding up pretty well due to the rain.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Cooler nights slowed down producers that were still harvesting. Weather conditions remained favorable overall. Crops were reported as average or slightly above average.

Whitman: A short rain break slowed harvest for a day or two. Most of the winter wheat was in the bin with mainly spring crops and garbanzo beans left to harvest. Yield reports were average to slightly below average. Producers were happy about the price and wished that harvest would never end. Work was beginning in preparation for seeding the fall 2008 wheat.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 27, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	50	74	62	-1	81	-4	11	-10	0.23	-0.12	4	35.98	+0.06	100	175
Everett	54	74	63	+1	91	+1	22	-6	0.60	+0.25	3	34.01	-2.21	94	176
Hoquiam	55	74	65	+4	105	+21	35	+14	0.26	-0.13	4	72.05	+4.48	107	204
Kelso	52	82	65	+2	107	+9	37	+2	0.04	-0.34	2	40.66	-5.58	88	143
Olympia	49	81	64	+2	100	+10	30	+2	0.15	-0.20	3	57.26	+6.94	114	174
Seattle-Tacoma	56	79	65	+0	107	+2	37	-3	0.23	-0.05	3	45.39	+8.45	123	166
Shelton	51	81	63	-3	92	-11	25	-16	0.28	-0.04	2	77.88	+13.29	121	181
Tacoma WA AP	48	78	63	-2	93	-6	23	-11	0.75	+0.40	4	41.71	+1.70	104	167
Vancouver WA	54	84	68	+4	124	+23	54	+19	0.13	-0.19	2	38.36	-2.69	93	146
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	50	91	67	+1	121	+5	51	-1	0.00	-0.11	0	8.13	-0.71	92	81
Omak AP	46	91	68	+3	125	+14	56	+8	0.00	-0.28	0	10.44	-4.46	70	63
Stampede Pass	42	70	53	-3	25	-21	0	-7	0.84	+0.32	3	98.89	+18.29	123	189
Wenatchee	54	89	69	-3	138	-13	68	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	8.60	+0.39	105	51
Yakima AP	47	90	67	-2	119	-7	49	-11	0.00	-0.11	0	7.04	-0.83	89	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	50	85	65	+0	107	+1	39	-5	0.13	-0.15	2	14.82	-6.20	71	108
Deer Park	44	86	63	-5	92	-28	25	-30	0.09	-0.12	2	18.15	-0.23	99	115
Republic	44	84	61	-2	80	-7	16	-16	0.00	-0.28	0	13.90	-1.78	89	79
Spokane AP	50	85	65	-2	109	-13	41	-15	0.03	-0.16	2	15.05	-1.29	92	104
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	47	88	68	-5	130	-30	61	-29	0.00	-0.07	0	7.37	+0.19	103	68
Moses Lake	47	89	67	-7	119	-41	52	-38	0.00	-0.07	0	6.43	-0.75	90	65
Quincy	50	89	68	-2	130	-6	60	-7	0.04	-0.05	1	7.95	+0.22	103	53
Ritzville	52	90	67	-1	119	-4	52	-6	0.45	+0.31	1	10.92	-0.30	97	84
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	49	94	71	-6	146	-37	76	-37	0.02	-0.05	1	4.79	-1.63	75	51
Pasco	50	94	70	-4	138	-20	68	-20	0.03	-0.10	1	7.38	-0.05	99	72
Pullman	41	85	62	-3	86	-20	20	-26	0.10	-0.11	1	16.74	-4.20	80	107
Walla Walla Rgn	58	90	71	-3	148	-15	78	-16	0.09	-0.12	1	18.32	-1.02	95	93
Whitman Mission	47	93	67	-3	117	-15	47	-19	0.45	+0.31	2	13.79	+0.16	101	102
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	56	92	70	-4	138	-20	68	-20	0.29	+0.08	2	8.96	-3.32	73	86

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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